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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Michael E. King, Jr., 30, of Springfield, Virginia, pled guilty today before the Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee, United States District Judge, to a criminal information charging him with one count of reproducing and distributing copyrighted professional wrestling videos. Judge Lee set King's sentencing for January 2, 2004, at 9:00 a.m, at which time he faces a maximum sentence of 3 years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000 and full restitution.

In pleading guilty, King admitted that, beginning in May 2002 and ending in March 2003, he made and distributed unauthorized video tape copies of copyrighted works owned by Ring of Honor, Inc. (ROH) and produced by RF Video, Inc., as well as copyrighted works of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and World Championship Wrestling (WCW). Operating as Mark Out Video and using the alias Mark Thompson, the defendant advertised the unauthorized copies of ROH, WWF and WCW videos on the Internet and accepted payment by check and through the Internet payment system PayPal. Although the ROH copyrighted video tapes were protected against illegal copying by the Macrovision copy protection system, the defendant made the unauthorized copies in his home using a video descrambler he purchased on the Internet. King then distributed the bootleg wrestling videos through the mail. He also admitted that ROH, WWF and WCW suffered losses totaling more than \$16,000 as a result of his conduct.

This case was investigated by the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Elston of the U.S. Attorney's Office Cybercrime Unit.

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